



CLAYESMORE

DORSET



ABOUT CLAYESMORE



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Clayesmore School is situated in the beautiful Dorset village of Iwerne Minster, mid-way between Shaftesbury and Blandford Forum on the A350. It occupies a fine site and is a flourishing community of 480 senior school girls and boys aged 13 - 18, with a further 220+ pupils who are members of the Prep School. Clayesmore is much in demand at the present time—pupil numbers at the Senior School have grown year on year but despite this growth, which is very stimulating and encouraging, we are at heart a “small school” and wish to remain as such. Boarding is strong with 260 in the Senior School and 65-70 in the Prep School.

Clayesmore’s inclusive, wide ability ethos, to which the Governors are committed, means that we can be a family school in every sense. Accepting that children in families may differ in terms of abilities and interests, it is understood that, unless it would clearly be wrong for the school or the child, having taken the first sibling into Y9, all the rest may follow. This family ethos is further enhanced by the co-location of Prep and Senior schools, meaning that children of all ages may attend school together, whether as boarders or day pupils.

The School lies in 62 acres of parkland and playing fields at the foot of Hambledon Hill, a beautiful historic site. Facilities are generally excellent and there has been considerable development in recent years.

The Jubilee Building (2002) comprises eight laboratories, two large ICT suites, a small lecture room, and a new Learning Support Centre. Elsewhere, in addition to dedicated space for each curriculum area, there is a

Sports Centre complete with 25m indoor pool, squash courts and fitness suite, a full-sized floodlit all-weather hockey pitch and tennis surface, and lovely playing fields.

In 2004 we opened the Spinney Centre. This was conceived to house classrooms for Geography, History, Careers and Business Studies, together with a new Staff Common Room suite and offices for senior staff, but as the School has continued to grow, Business Studies has moved out to a purpose built Business School which also contains Economics, Biology and new facilities for IT, A-Level Psychology, Photography and Careers. The building also has a multi-purpose room used for Model United Nations. This opened in 2013 at the same time as The Bower, a girls’ boarding house alongside the main school building.

Clayesmore Prep School moved to Iwerne Minster in 1974 from its birthplace in Charlton Marshall and occupies cheerful purpose built accommodation in its own area of the school grounds. It has all its own amenities for teaching and boarding and shares certain key facilities such as the dining hall, the sports centre, the all-weather hockey pitch and the chapel. In recent years there has been a new Pre-Prep and Nursery complex and in 2009 a fine new teaching block called the Everett Building, named after the Prep School’s founder, was built.

A major extension to the popular and successful Design & Technology department has recently come into use. As is evident, over the last 15 years or so there has been



a period of great progress and growth in pupil numbers, with corresponding and extensive development of the infrastructure.

Clayesmore is large enough to be challenging and to offer a wide-ranging curriculum and many activities, yet small enough to be intimate and for every boy and girl to be valued, known and noticed; this is central to our ethos.

In 2004, the Head of the Senior School was elected to membership of The Headmasters’ and Headmistresses’ Conference (HMC) following an accreditation inspection – a great boost to the School. The Head of Prep School is a member of the Independent Association of Preparatory Schools (IAPS).

The School also belongs to the Boarding Schools’ Association, AGBIS and is a member of the Independent Schools’ Bursars Association, AMDIS (the Association of Marketing & Development in Independent Schools) and IDPE (the Institute of Development Professionals in Education).

The Senior School underwent an ISI Integrated Inspection in January 2012 and was graded ‘excellent’ in all areas. In its Intermediate Boarding Inspection of March 2015 it was found to be fully compliant with all the National Minimum Standards for Boarding Schools.



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